

Women Left Behind--Widows of Heroes of War Between States What They Are Doing and What Fate Has in Store for Them

BY JOHN ELFRETH WATKINS.
While you are weaving your May blossoms into Memorial Day garlands you will be interested to learn how the fates are dealing with the widows left behind by the great generals of the blue and gray armies.

With the aid of several government bureaus I have been making a census of these good women left behind by the heroes that have gone to answer the last roll call. They are scattered all over the land, and great have been the contrasts in their fortunes, as you shall presently observe. Some have remarried and a few have been lost to the sight of government officials, surviving war heroes and sister war-widows whom I have been questioning within recent days.

Mrs. Sheridan in Europe.
Mrs. Sheridan is now traveling in Europe, and time wears well with her, for longevity is part of her heritage from her father, General Daniel H. Rucker, who died last year, shortly before his ninety-eighth birthday, and after having been continually an officer of the army for seventy-two years. And then, Mrs. Sheridan is one of the younger widows of our heroes, as she did not marry the great general until fourteen years after the close of the Civil War, and when he was a bachelor of forty-eight. Her mother, formerly Miss Jane Curtis, was General Rucker's second wife, the first having been a half-breed Cherokee Indian girl, the daughter of a wealthy ranchman of the frontier.

"Little Phil" was lieutenant-general when he married Emily Irene Rucker in '79, and four years after their wedding he became general-in-chief, the full emoluments of which rank he enjoyed until his death in 1885. During five of the nine years of her married life Mrs. Sheridan's social reign was supreme in army circles. Her early widowhood was devoted to the rearing and education of her children, of whom a son, Philip H., Jr., was appointed to West Point by President McKinley, and is now a lieutenant of cavalry, and two daughters remain unmarried. In 1900 Mrs. Sheridan aided her father and mother in the celebration of their golden wedding. In sight of her home on Sheridan Circle, Washington, is the impressive bronze statue of her late husband, depicted in the act of making his historic ride to Winchester.

Mrs. Stonewall Jackson's Pluck.
At her old home in Charlotte, N. C., Mrs. Stonewall Jackson still enjoys a wholesome old age among her books and flowers. And to her, also, longevity has come as a heritage from a non-agrarian father, the late Rev. R. H. Morrison, D. D., a prominent Presbyterian divine, and college president of some months ago, when, revolver in hand, she put to flight a burglar who had entered the house late one night while she was alone.

A Call at Mrs. Logan's.
I spent a most interesting hour yesterday with Mrs. John A. Logan, whom, too, time has touched lightly. She preserves all of her old-time vigor of mind, and her keen memory added greatly to my notes concerning her sister widows of the great war heroes.

If you were to probe the secret of this remarkable woman's preservation you would find it to be a constant occupation of mind, commencing back in her girlhood, when she acted as the secretary of her father, while he was Register of the Illinois and Ohio lands under President Pierce. And after her marriage to her soldier-lover—

MRS. GEORGE E. PICKETT.

Point, where he became champion wrestler and football star, and Julia Christian, now Mrs. Preston, of Charlotte, who last year accompanied her mother upon a visit to Mrs. Levi Z. Leiter, widow of the Chicago multi-millionaire, at the latter's elegant Washington mansion. This return of Mrs. Jackson to the National Capital, after seven years after her season of gaiety in Fillmore's administration, was marked by many brilliant entertainments in her honor, and by her attendance at a state dinner at the White House. But she came to the presidential mansion as no stranger to President Taft, whom she had welcomed to Charlotte the previous spring, during his tour of the South.

That Mrs. Jackson was not inferior to her husband in courage, was proved some months ago, when, revolver in hand, she put to flight a burglar who had entered the house late one night while she was alone.

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who had fought under her father in the Mexican War—she industriously served him in the same capacity during the days that he was district attorney at Benton, Ill. When he returned to the second call to arms, she followed him to the front, and during the privations of camp life in order to be near him, and industriously nursing those who had fallen under his banner. While he was in the House of Representatives and in the Senate she exercised the same energy, and by her hospitalities at their stately mansion, "Calumet Place," helped him the further popularity that made him the vice-presidential nominee in '84.

Has Kept Constantly Occupied.
After the general's death, although well fortified against want, she still spurned idleness, and devoted her energies to editing a magazine, giving lectures for charitable purposes, and writing industriously for the magazines and newspapers. At the same time she served nearly a decade as president of the board that built the great hospital dedicated to President Garfield, and later was one of the commissioners who insured the success of

Financial Statement.

| | Receipts | Expenditures | Balance |
|-------|-----------|--------------|----------|
| 1908. | \$ 21,171 | \$ 8,848 | \$22,523 |
| 1909. | 32,500 | 21,507 | 8,993 |
| 1910. | 25,500 | 25,502 | \$1,998 |
| | \$100,171 | \$65,857 | \$34,314 |

\$17,600 withheld from expenditures of \$35,502 and paid into permanent fund.

What of the Future?
The above figures for the year 1910, which really includes part of 1911, show that the receipts and expenditures exactly balance. What will happen next year? With the additional teachers to be placed on the retired list, this article estimates that there will be a deficit of some \$5,000, which means that the fund will have to be prorated, each teacher receiving about 50 per cent of what he is entitled to under the law. This is not so bad, but this deficit will increase from year to year.

The writer estimates that in about eight years the list of retired teachers will have adjusted itself, and it is fair to presume that said list will consist of about 400 teachers—men and women for the most part who have given the strong years of life to teaching the young children. Since the average pension is about \$140, this means that eventually it will take about \$60,000 annually to maintain the retired teachers' fund. Of this amount the teachers will contribute say \$40,000. Where shall we get the remaining \$20,000?

The writer believes with all his heart that the State should pay it. The State now contributes \$5,000. Why should it not gradually increase its appropriation to the necessities of the case until its appropriation amounts to \$20,000?

Is this an unreasonable thing for the General Assembly to do? Is not the State under obligation to those already on the list? What about the teachers seventy years of age, who were compelled to pay 1 per cent of their salary into the fund and who on the basis of the law gave up their school?

But there is a weightier reason why this law should be maintained and its integrity. Teachers who spend their lives in the school will not be turned out in their old age unless there is a retired teachers' fund. It makes no difference how incompetent they have become. In every community there have been teachers whose usefulness passed away years ago, but they held on, even to the detriment of the children, until the necessities of the case required until its appropriation amounts to \$20,000.

Each teacher in Virginia is required by his contract with the school board employing him to pay into the retired teachers' fund 1 per cent of his salary. These contributions, along with the annual appropriation of \$5,000 from the Commonwealth, make up the fund.

How the Law Has Worked.
The general features of the law have been outlined above. Now let us see how the law has worked during the last three years.

Number of pensioners seventy years old and over 37
Number of pensioners between sixty and seventy years of age 50
Number of pensioners between fifty and sixty years of age 50
Number of pensioners between forty and fifty years of age 45
Number of pensioners under forty years of age 15
Number on retired list: White, 272 colored, 22. Total 294
It will be noticed from the above

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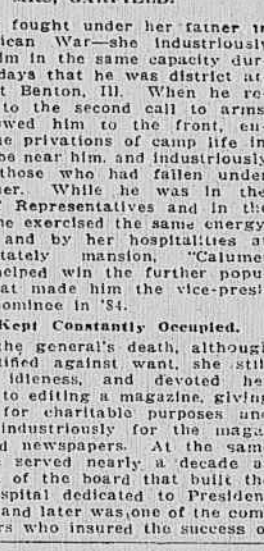
MRS. SHERIDAN.



MRS. JOHN A. LOGAN.



MRS. GARFIELD.



the Columbian Exposition in Chicago. While she talked to me she wore clasped at her throat an ivory miniature of the general, whose features are carved upon the cameo which she wears in the accompanying photograph—her latest portrait, taken only a few months ago. With similar loyalty she cherishes the memory of her son, whose death in the Philippines in 1899, added to the sorrows of her widowhood.

A similar sorrow now bows in grief the widow of the noted Confederate General Pickett, whose only son, Major George E. Pickett, of the army, has died only this month, while sailing home to her across the Pacific, after a term of service in the Philippines.

This brave widow, like Mrs. Logan, has dedicated her life to unceasing industry. No wartime wedding contracted during the struggle between North and South equaled her in romance.

Trouseau Smuggled in Hay Bales.
When a beautiful Virginia girl of only fifteen she became betrothed to her soldier lover, already a major-general of the Confederacy, and in order to marry him, a short time after his famous charge at Gettysburg, she had her trousseau smuggled through

the Union lines in bales of hay.

Then, taking her fate in her own hands, this plucky girl, despite the fact that only fifteen years had made their imprint upon her pretty face, successfully disguised herself as an old woman who sold vegetables to the Union soldiers, and in this role successfully smuggled her own person through the lines.

General Pickett eagerly awaited his bride-to-be on the Confederate side, and as soon as she reached him they were wedded.

From the day of this picturesque wedding she shared with him the hardships of the camp and march, and after the war, when the general awaited in Canada, the privileges of the Grant-Lee cartel, she supported him and their infant son by teaching belles-lettres in a college. After their return to America the general obtained a position with an insurance company in Norfolk. But the peace that now dawned at last upon the young wife was to last only ten years, when the Grim Reaper left her a widow and her child an orphan.

Her courage, however, came again to her rescue. Refusing financial aid

proffered by her husband's comrades, she obtained a government clerkship in Washington, which she still holds. Although once seriously threatened with blindness, she attended faithfully to the rearing and education of the son and only child, whom she has just lost.

Mrs. Garfield's Solace.
No widow of a Civil War general has secured more popular sympathy or offered a deeper grief than Mrs. Garfield, who now divides her time between Cleveland, Ohio, and Pasadena, Cal. It has now been over fifty-two years since she wedded the future President, who had been her fellow student at Harvard College, and who, after their marriage, became Campbellite preacher, then soldier, Congressman and President. This summer will bear the thirtieth anniversary of the sad July day when this faithful wife and mother, overwhelmed by her first social season in the White House, received in her sick room at Long Branch the news that her husband, while settling out to join her, had been felled by the assassin's bullet.

But since that terrible summer, with its weeks of anguish, which she spent at his bedside, she has secured some compensation in the joy of seeing her sons grow up to be distinguished men—the one gaining a place in the Cabinet and the other the presidency of a well-known college. And besides, giving such men to her country, she has devoted her time to philanthropic works, conspicuous among which have been the donation of a large sum to the Kansas university, which bears her martyred husband's name.

Mrs. Custer on Author.
Mrs. Custer is another of the surviving widows who have not been idle in their sorrow. Like Mrs. Logan and Mrs. Pickett, she accompanied her husband to the seat of war, and after the close of that conflict shared with him the discomforts and perils of the frontier fighter's life, during his Indian campaigns. Since his death at the hands of the red men she has written books and delivered lectures. She still lives in New York City.

Last Monday was the fifty-first anniversary of the marriage of George B. McClellan and Ellen Mary Marcy, which good woman still lives in retirement in Morristown, N. J. Like Mrs. Sheridan and Mrs. Logan, Mrs. McClellan is the daughter, as well as the widow, of an army officer. Her father, Brigadier-General Randolph P. Marcy, was a West Pointer, a veteran of the Black Hawk Mexican and Civil Wars, a famous sportsman, big game hunter and explorer. While he was exploring the Red River country during the early fifties, he had with him a plucky lieutenant of engineers, who had lately won a brevet for distinguished services in the Mexican War.

Wooded the Commander's Daughter.
This stocky young hero—later to be known as the country over as "Little Mac"—fell in love with his commander's pretty daughter. After having served the army as official observer of the Crimean War, McClellan, now a cavalry captain, resigned his commission to become chief engineer and soon afterward vice-president of the Illinois Central Railroad, and it was soon after this that he married Ellen Marcy. They settled down in Cincinnati and had a happy home, maintained on his generous salary, but before the first anniversary of their wedding had come around Sumter had been fired on and the young bridegroom could not be dissuaded from disregarding his business prospects and re-entering the army. He was made a major-general at once, and it was a great comfort to the young bride that her father and husband were to fight shoulder to shoulder, for the former was made McClellan's chief of staff.

After his defeat for the presidency General McClellan took his wife on a tour of Europe, lasting three years, and it was while they were stopping in Dresden, Saxony, that George B. McClellan was born. This young man was a student at Princeton when his distinguished father died, but his graduation during the first year of her widowhood brought some solace to Mrs. McClellan's grieving heart, and in the case of Mrs. Garfield, she was further compensated by witnessing her son's rise in politics to the ranks of Congressman and Mayor of the great city of the New World. Part of her time in recent years Mrs. McClellan has spent abroad with her only

other child, a daughter, who married a foreigner.

Mrs. Buell is living in Nashville; Mrs. Hartman in Norristown, Pa.; Mrs. Alexander McDowell McCook in Baltimore; Mrs. J. J. Reynolds in Washington; Mrs. O. O. Howard in Burlington, Vt.; Mrs. Walter A. Moxley in Chicago; and Mrs. J. J. Gresham in Washington. The former widow of General William B. Hazen is now the wife of Admiral Dewey, and the former Mrs. J. M. Schofield—the late general's second wife—has recently married a wealthy banker of St. Augustine, Fla.

Coming back to the Confederate general's widow—Mrs. Fitzhugh Lee is in Cuba with her son, Captain Fitzhugh Lee, who is in the army. Mrs. W. H. F. Lee lives at Ravensworth, the old Fitzhugh mansion house, in Fairfax county, Va. Mrs. Thomas L. Rosser is residing at the University of Virginia. Mrs. John B. Gordon lives near Atlanta; Mrs. J. E. B. Stuart at Norfolk; Mrs. Samuel Cooper in Alexandria; and General Ambrose P. Hill's former widow is now Mrs. Mary Hill of Louisville, and Mrs. Longstreet, the general's second wife, is postmistress at Gainesville, Ala.

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LARGE CROWDS AT FINALS OF FORK UNION ACADEMY.
Closing Session Is Most Successful in History of Institution.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]
Fork Union, Va., May 27.—The finals of the Fork Union Military Academy came to an end here on Wednesday, the last day of the commencement exercises, which were attended by immense crowds of graduates and friends. The history of this growing institution follows: Marion Edridge Blanton, Carfax county; George T. Covington, county; Roscoe N. Gary, West Point; James A. Gay, Smithfield; William H. Harris, Charlottesville; Howard H. Hatcher, Staunton; John H. Hudson, Jr., Mount Vernon; Manassas; Linwood H. Hutchins, Richmond; Warren C. Lewis, Accomac; Arthur J. Lynch, Norfolk county; William Nelson, Rappahannock; John W. Payne, Fluvanna; George W. Quick, Northampton; Norman J. Richards, Appomattox county; Samuel W. Sears, Red Bank; George W. Shreve, Hatchett; John H. Shreve, Fluvanna county; Charles C. Wells, Mathews; Andrew W. Wilkins, county; Skipwith, Philip J. Wilkins, Fluvanna county; Nathaniel, Wooling, Fluvanna county; and John W. Mitchell, of Indiana.

The baccalaureate sermon was preached last Sunday by Dr. Pendleton Jones, of Hatteras.

The three scholarships—two to Richmond College and the other to Washington and Lee—were won by Hugh A. Wooding, Samuel W. Sears, and Nathaniel Mitchell. The University of Virginia presented the scholarship to William H. Harris.

The military department, under the efficient direction of Captain Edward Wooding, awarded several prizes. The highest honor, 112 points, was won by Hugh A. Wooding, for his brilliant record in the military department. The highest honor in the academic department was won by W. W. Hogue, M. R. Pettit, and J. C. Hogue. The highest honor in the athletic department was won by W. W. Hogue, M. R. Pettit, and J. C. Hogue.

The prospects for next session are highly encouraging. The attendance for the session just ended was nearly 200.

Warrenton Social News

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]
Warrenton, Ore., May 27.—Miss Margie Woodzelle is at home for the week-end from the Southern Seminary in Blount, Ala. Miss Woodzelle has two guests with her.

Mr. and Mrs. William F. Wilbur are at home from Philadelphia, where they attended the annual meeting of the Y. M. C. A. Robert Foley, Jr., spent the week-end in Warrenton.

Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Wilson are the guests of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Council.

Mr. and Mrs. O. B. Calahan spent Sunday last in Warrenton. Miss Calahan, Mrs. James W. Jeffries, and their parents, Mr. and Mrs. S. B. Weedon, at Ashland.

Captain J. Brad Beverly and Lieutenant James W. Jeffries left on Wednesday for Warrenton, where they will spend a week.

Mrs. H. R. Shands and Miss Eppes, of Warrenton, are the guests of Mr. J. H. Britton.

Charles Harris has gone to Baltimore, where he will be the guest of Mrs. Peter Labouette, and will be judge at the Elkridge show. J. K. Maddux will also be a judge at the show.

Miss Elizabeth Spilman, who has been the guest of Miss Elizabeth Spilman, left for her home in Kentucky on Tuesday.

Miss Annie Camden Spilman, who has been visiting in Kentucky, is at home.

Mrs. Charles R. Deane is spending some time in Washington, D. C.

Mrs. P. A. R. Portner spent several days in Washington this week.

Mrs. Will Robertson is at home after visiting her parents in Warrenton.

June Page, who has been a student at Bethel Academy, has returned to his home in Blount.

Dr. S. W. Maples is at home after a visit to Raleigh, N. C.

Mrs. Marie Berger, of Wytheville, who has been the guest of Miss Harris, returned home after a trip to Niagara Falls, Cleveland and other Western points.

Postmaster Gaines, of New York, is spending some time with Colonel and Mrs. Grenville Gaines.

Rev. and Mrs. E. S. Hinks and Alex. Rose, who attended the convention in Winchester, returned to Warrenton on Saturday last.

Mr. and Mrs. Julian Keith have returned home after a visit to Canada and Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Horner, New Haven, Conn.

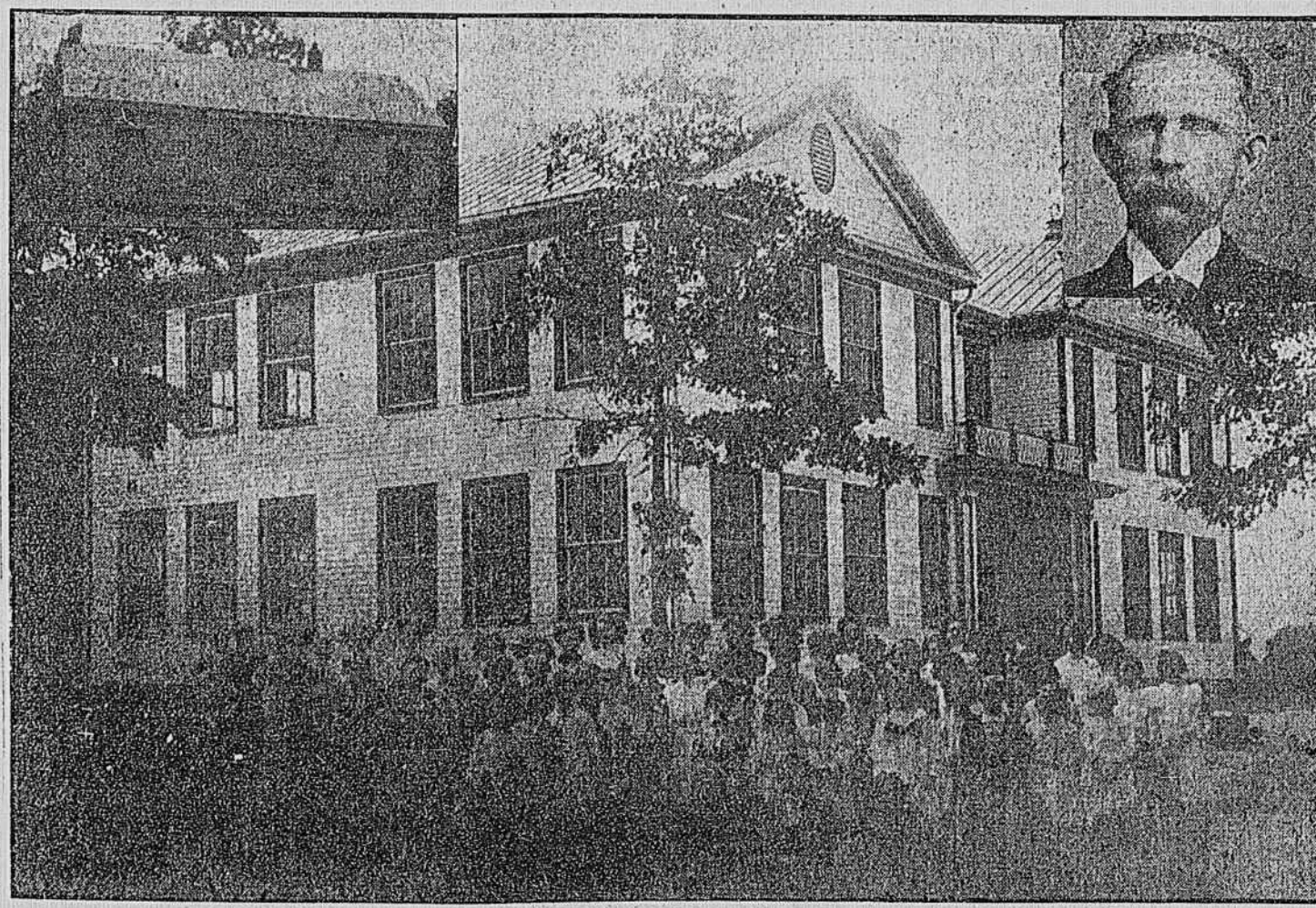
Miss Elizabeth Bashaw, who has been spending several months in the West, is at home again.

P. R. Boston has returned home after visiting Mr. and Mrs. Chase Boston in Washington.

Master Taylor and Lauriston Hardin, who returned from a trip to Washington, returned to Warrenton on Saturday last.

Mr. L. H. Spawns, of Baltimore, and Miss Kate Goldsborough, also of Baltimore, were recent visitors to Warrenton.

THE PROGRESS OF RURAL SCHOOLS IN VIRGINIA



The above is a picture of the new Dinwiddie High School, while in the upper left-hand corner in the small and unattractive building that used to supply the educational needs of the community. This new and attractive building at Dinwiddie is one of the best equipped rural schools in the State, and has a fine corps of instructors. In the upper right-hand corner is a picture of School Trustee R. D. Temple, through whose untiring efforts the larger school was erected. There are scores of new schools in the State that are monuments to the zeal of some one man, who determined that the country boys and girls of Virginia are entitled to a good education.